GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6161
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Programme to attract Youth towards Agriculture
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) jointly launched a programme recently to attract and sustain the interest of youth in agriculture;

(b) if so, the number of youth to whom training in agriculture was imparted by ICAR and NARS during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to generate interest of the youth/students in agriculture in schools and universities across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam, Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated a program on "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture" (ARYA) during the XII plan. The ARYA project is being implemented in 25 States through KVKs, one district from each State.

During 2015-16, 1100 youth have been involved, while for the year 2016-17, 4400 youth have been involved in the project for setting up of micro-entrepreneurial units like Apiary, Mushroom, Seed Processing, Soil testing, Poultry, Dairy, Goatry, Carp-hatchery, Vermi-compost etc.

(c) In order to reorient graduates of agriculture and allied subjects for ensuring employability and to develop entrepreneurs for emerging knowledge intensive agriculture, the ICAR has launched Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Development Yojana). Student READY is an essential course module for the award of degree at Bachelors level to ensure hands on training and practical experience depending on the requirements of respective discipline in Agricultural Universities. This is step forward for articulating education into entrepreneurship and employability. The Student READY programme includes five components: Experiential Learning, Rural Awareness Works Experience (RAWE), In Plant Training/Industrial attachment, Hands-on training, Student Project. There is also a provision of a stipend of Rs. 3000/month/student for a maximum of six months to students undergoing Student READY.

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